

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00643 151149 Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

OMB-01 RSR-01 /085 W

----- 065135

P R 151125 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0076

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0643

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY US XF

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ON U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN BEIRUT RAID

REF: TRIPOLI 0640; BEIRUT 5512 ; STATE 91414

1. DEPT PRESS SPOKESMAN CAN SAY EMBASSY TRIPOLI PROMPTLY DENIED TO LARG ANY USG INVOLVEMENT IN OR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF IDF' S BEIRUT RAID. APRIL 18 MFA' S THIRD RANKING MAN, ISA BABA, MENTIONED ALLEGATION OF EMBASSY BEIRUT INVOLVEMENT WHEN TALKING TO CHARGE. THAT CONVERSATION REPORTED IN TRIPOLI 0496 (ROGER CHANNEL, NOTAL). CHARGE DID NOT DWELL ON SUBJECT, BECAUSE OF OTHER PRESSING BUSINESS AT HAND, BUT MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR USG NOT ONLY CATEGORICALLY DENIED INVOLVEMENT BUT HAD NO ADVANCE INFO ON RAID.

2. EVENING MAY 14 MRS. JOSIF HAPPENED HAVE LONG TALK WITH BABA AT SOCIAL FUNCTION. BABA AGAIN RAISED ALLEGATION OF U. S. INVOLVEMENT, NO DOUBT EMBOLDENED BY QADHAFI' S REMARKS ON SUBJECT MAY 13. MRS. JOSIF
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VIGOROUSLY DEMANDED THAT HE NOT GIVE ANY CREDENCE TO THIS " BIG LIE", AND PRESENTED VARIOUS REASONS WHY SHE " KNEW" IT WAS A LIE. AFTER ABOUT 10 MINUTES OF THIS, BABA SEEMED TO BE PERSUADED.

3. NONE OF THE ABOVE MEANS QADHAFI OR ANY RCC MEMBER HAS NECESSARILY RECEIVED OUR DENIALS -- EXCEPT THROUGH WORLD PRESS, WHICH IS SUMMARIZED FOR THEM. (UNLIKE LOCAL RADIO FIRST DAY IN ENGLISH BROADCAST, LOCAL PRESS HAS GENERALLY NOT CARRIED OUR DENIALS, BUT NEITHER HAS IT PROMOTED BIG LIE SYSTEMATICALLY; ONE EXCEPTION WAS AN ARTICLE OF APRIL 28 IN OFFICIAL FAJR AL- JADID, WHICH WE HAVE YET NOT HAD TIME TO PROTEST.)
JOSIF

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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